

At this time, I am very pleased that the McDonalds corporation is committed to re-viewing the legal and social aspects of constructing a McDonalds at Utulei beach. I am also pleased that Mr. Bryant has agreed to keep my office informed about any new developments in this case. In turn, I am reviewing the possibility of introducing federal legislation to include Utulei beach as part of the National Park of American Samoa so as to prevent any company including but not limited to KFC, Burger King, Pizza Hut, or local businesses from building at this site.

I believe we must not only resolve the immediate crisis facing us but we should also protect ourselves in the future from any other corporation seeking to build at Utulei beach. Utulei beach offers the only stretch of shoreline where outrigger canoes and fautasi, or longboats, can enter deep water via the natural channel through the reef and, out of respect and reverence for our Samoan traditions and customs, I believe we must work together to preserve Utulei beach.

On a separate matter, I also mentioned to Mr. Bryant that I am concerned that American Samoa is being treated like a foreign country by the McDonalds corporation. It does not make sense to me why we have to get permission from Australia in order to establish a McDonalds in American Samoa. American Samoa is a territory of the United States and our local owners ought to be able to do business with McDonalds in America, not Australia.

I also expressed my concerns about the previous lease agreement done for McDonalds at the current site in Tafuna. It is my understanding that the previous lease agreement between ASG and McDonalds stipulates that all lawsuits must be filed in Australia and be subjected to Australian law. This is not fair to ASG or to anyone in American Samoa and I suggested that the attorneys in Australia representing McDonalds should be more ethical in the contracts they put forward in this territory.

While I have not heard from McDonalds Australia regarding construction at Utulei beach, I appreciate Mr. Bryant's efforts in meeting with me and I thanked him for the great service McDonalds is currently providing in American Samoa. The people of American Samoa welcome and support McDonalds and we continue to remain hopeful that this situation can be favorably resolved, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Apr. 22, 2006]

#### FALEOMAVAEGA RESPONDS TO GOVERNORS RECENT COMMENTS ABOUT MCDONALDS

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is responding to the Governors comments published by Samoa News on April 17, 2006 regarding the McDonalds controversy. Togiola responded directly to Faleomavaegas public support of the National Parks position on the Utulei Beach Park lease saying, the congressman is not the federal judge for American Samoa yet, so he should wait until he knows all the facts.

He has not even asked us about this matter. He is basing his opinion on one side only. He should really learn to ask people who live here first before he goes off and releases these kinds of statements, said Togiola.

I am saddened by the Governors comments, Faleomavaega said. As part of a free and democratic society, each of us is entitled to a difference of opinion but it is beneath the office of an elected official to make false claims and stoop to name-calling. I am not nor do I ever desire to be a federal judge and my position regarding McDonalds has been clear from the beginning. I stand with the people of American Samoa in opposition to this deal.

Unlike the Governor, I have heard what our people have to say and my office has been inundated with calls opposing the construction of a McDonalds at the only public beach in American Samoa. Furthermore, the Governor has known of my opposition since May 25, 2005 almost a year ago at which time I copied him on my letter to Mr. Charles Tautolo of McDonalds in American Samoa. I also copied our Fono as well as the CEO of the McDonalds Corporation headquartered in Illinois.

Nearly a year ago, on June 28, 2005, I also met with the Director of Federal Government Relations for the McDonalds Corporation and expressed my grave concerns about McDonalds failure to conduct a feasibility study, Faleomavaega said. Based on a press release I issued, our local media published the details of this meeting in which I informed the Director that the people of American Samoa would support the construction of a McDonalds anywhere else in American Samoa but not at Utulei Beach Park.

Utulei Beach is our only public beach and preserving it now and for future generations is what is best for American Samoa. This is why our people want a public hearing. So let the hearing begin. And when it begins, let us question its purpose since the Governor has already signed the lease and made his decision before listening to the people.

As we carefully consider this matter, let us also be very clear about ASGs involvement with the National Park Service (NPS). According to the NPS, ASG entered into a contractual agreement with NPS in 1995 placing Utulei Beach Park within the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) as park land dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity which means forever. ASG has also accepted over \$4 million since signing the agreement.

As I stated previously, if our local government makes a promise to the federal government and accepts grant money and then decides the terms of the agreement are inconvenient and no longer apply, it sends the message that American Samoa does not respect the federal grant process and therefore should not be trusted with any federal money. This is the wrong message to send to Congress and the wrong message to send to the US Department of the Interior.

For this reason, I am trying to prevent a confrontation or a legal battle between the US Department of the Interior and ASG. While the Governor has suggested that I do not have the facts, the truth is I have copies of every letter exchanged between the NPS and Governor Togiola which began on May 16, 2005 and continue to March 28, 2006. I also have copies of survey maps and the Governor has also been provided with these maps on more than one occasion. In other words, the Governor knows that the lease that was signed places the proposed McDonalds within a protected park area and violates ASGs agreement with the NPS. This said, I remain hopeful that we can find a favorable solution to a local issue that should have never escalated to a federal problem, Faleomavaega concluded.

#### HONORING JACK ROTZIEN ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my grandfather, Jack Rotzien, on his 90th birthday.

Born and raised in Holmesville, Indiana, my grandfather has spent the past 90 years of his life exemplifying what it means to be a Hoosier. At 20 years old he joined the U.S. Army and fought in World War II. During the war, he was stationed at Wendling Air Force base in England where he served as the gunnery teacher for the troops. After graduation from Indiana University, my grandfather worked in the retail industry with both L. S. Ayres and Maison Blanche in Indiana. He worked hard for decades to provide for his family. Now that he is retired, he spends time at his VFW post and has found passion in speaking with students about his time in the military.

While he has made many professional contributions to our state and our country, he has also had a significant impact on me and my family. I will never forget the summer vacations my brother, mother and I used to take with my grandfather. One year, we all visited Lake Okeechobee in Florida because he knew how much we loved to go fishing. We spent the week sitting by the lake and must have caught nearly a hundred fish (or at least that's how I remember it). This is just one memory I cherish. I also remember the time my brother was almost eaten by an alligator—but, that's another story.

This year my grandfather's birthday will fall on Thanksgiving Day, which gives me an even greater opportunity to give thanks for the role he has played in my life. My grandfather is a man of compassion, strength, and faith and I am privileged to have had his love and guidance over the last 45 years. I hope that he knows how much he has meant to me and I look forward to the many memories we will continue to make with one another. Today, I wish him a happy 90th birthday as he celebrates this milestone in his life.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE OWLS' WHIST CLUB, INC.

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Owls Whist Club, Inc., a historic organization founded 100 years ago in Charleston, SC. The club was founded on February 14, 1914 as something that was—in the words of their founding charter “strictly social and for the entertainment of our friends.” It was founded by a group of African American men and is one of the oldest social clubs of its kind in the United States.

On November 26, 2014, they will be hosting their Annual Thanksgiving Eve event to continue their 100th anniversary celebration, and I plan to be in attendance.

The earliest available records of the organization are the official minutes of their meetings and their constitution that was written in 1924. The original members numbered sixteen, and when Arthur Clement, Jr. wrote “A Brief History—Owls' Whist Club” in 1950, he stated that Frank W. Dawson, the first host, was a barber.

Each year the members hold a black tie affair. Many of these events were held at Dart Hall, which back then was the “Negro Branch” of the Charleston County Library. The members decided in 1939 that they would buy land and build their own place to hold events, and in 1945 they did just that. They purchased two

lots in Maryville, SC directly across the Ashley river from the Citadel, South Carolina's Military College.

During this time in Charleston's history, banks did not lend money to African Americans to construct buildings, consequently the membership created a building fund. Each member was assessed a proportionate share of the cost of constructing the building now known as the Owls' Roost.

The historical impact of this organization was proven throughout the 20th century as this group of African American men overcame the racial nature of South Carolina. During its founding and throughout its development, the Owls' Whist Club members experienced numerous indignities and adversities, including numerous lynchings by vigilantes and several legislative actions by the SC House of Representatives that relegated African American citizens to a second-class existence.

This club has given African American men of Charleston a place to socialize and strategize for 100 years. Its membership has always included a variety of occupations and when they meet on November 26 to celebrate this milestone they will do so with members and guests from every background and sets of experiences that is possible to gather under one roof, and holding fast to history and tradition, among their membership will be one barber.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating the Owls' Whist Club on the celebration of their 100th Anniversary. I commend its members for continuing a much-needed tradition. Their perseverance and tenacity are appreciated by a grateful community.

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HONORING DANIEL J. RIDER

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**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel J. Rider. Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Daniel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Daniel J. Rider for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING FORMER POW DARRELL STARK OF STAFFORD SPRINGS, CONNECTICUT

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**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2014*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Darrell Stark, 92, of Stafford Springs, Connecticut. Mr. Stark, a veteran of the Army's 31st Infantry Regiment and former prisoner of war of the Empire of Japan in World War II, recently returned from a historic trip to Japan he and six other former POWs, accompanied by their family members, were guests of the Japanese government last month on a trip of reconciliation and remembrance.

Mr. Stark was 17 when he joined the Army in 1941, and was immediately sent to the Philippines where he was assigned to a heavy weapons company as a weapons carrier and runner. He participated in the defense of the Bataan peninsula, where despite disease, lack of supplies and obsolete weapons, he and his fellow defenders were able to fight the Japanese to a four-month standstill. Despite their efforts, however, Bataan was surrendered on April 9, 1942. Mr. Stark was taken prisoner and over the course of the next three years was held in various prisons and camps in the Philippines, forced into labor and suffering extremely harsh and difficult conditions. After being liberated in September 1945, Mr. Stark returned home for treatment, eventually settling in Connecticut where he worked for the Department of Corrections and spoke often to students about his role in the defense of the Philippines.

Between October 11 to 20, Mr. Stark and six of his fellow POWs were guests of the Government of Japan as part of the fifth American POW Friendship delegation to visit Japan. This delegation included members of the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy, and Marines who fought in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Their trip was part of an ongoing reconciliation process that began in 2010 when the Japanese government delivered to the first American POW delegation an official Cabinet-approved apology for the damage and suffering these men endured.

As part of the delegation, Mr. Stark was able to travel to his former POW camp in Yokkaichi near Kyoto. The managers of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha (ISK), the company that controlled the camp, not only received him warmly, but honored him. ISK is now a multi-national chemical company with operations in the United States and one of only a handful of companies that have apologized to POWs forced into labor.

This once in a lifetime trip for Mr. Stark was made possible through the hard work of many people, including the U.S. State Department and the Government of Japan. While coming to terms with the past is undoubtedly difficult for our American survivors and the Japanese people, it is my hope that our two nations will continue to work together to sustain and improve efforts such as this to provide reconciliation with our shared history, provide closure to our POWs and their families, and build stronger relations for the future.

NATIONAL INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

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**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2014*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Crohn's and Colitis patient community in observance of National Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Awareness Week. As the Co-Chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, I have enjoyed working with my colleague ANDER CRENSHAW to raise awareness of and improve access to treatments for IBD.

Our caucus has worked to champion funding for IBD research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This has led to accomplishments like the identification of the first gene linked to Crohn's Disease (NOD/CARD15), which will lead to better treatments and a cure for IBD, and the discovery of Remicade, the only biologic drug for treatment of both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

We have also been strong advocates for the IBD Epidemiology program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This program yields invaluable information about the prevalence of IBD in the US and expands our knowledge about the demographic characteristics of this vulnerable population. The data derived from this study will not only provide an analysis of the etiology of the disease, but could also explain why the course of illness varies among individuals and what environmental or treatment factors improve patient outcomes.

While there is currently no known cure for IBD, we can already see the importance of Congress's continued support of IBD research. National IBD Awareness Week offers the opportunity to build upon our efforts for the Crohn's and Colitis patient community.

I have been honored by the opportunity to lead the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, and I urge my colleagues to speak out in support of IBD research efforts and to raise awareness for IBD.

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HONORING SHEIKH MOUSSA DRAMMEH

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**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2014*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Sheikh Moussa Drammeh for his many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Though Sheikh Drammeh has a varied professional portfolio ranging from entrepreneurial development to ecommerce, his dedication to improving the access and opportunities available for members of the African community can be seen in all of his endeavors. Most notably, Sheikh Drammeh founded HalalFinder.com, which is the first online halal auction market of its kind. This platform was established in order to ensure that providers and consumers alike would have an interactive service market space that would allow